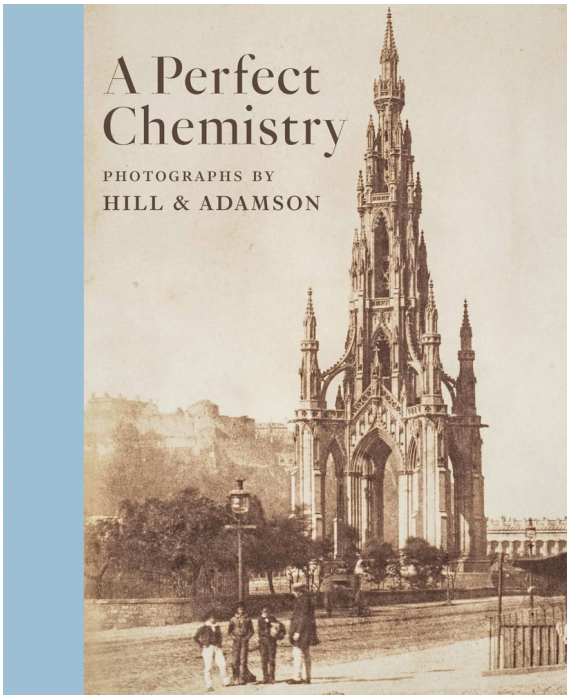
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Perfect Chemistry: Photographs by Hill and Adamson

Anne M. Lyden

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- This is one of the world's most important collections of early photography, featuring numerous views of Edinburgh, its development and its inhabitants
- Some of the first examples of social documentary photography
- Featuring sumptuous, high-quality, full-colour plates

Pioneering Edinburgh photographers David Octavius Hill (1802-1870) and Robert Adamson (1821-1848) together formed one of the most famous partnerships in the history of photography. Producing highly skilled photographs just four years after the new medium was announced to the world in 1839, their images of people, buildings and scenes in and around Edinburgh offer a fascinating glimpse into 1840s Scotland. Their much-loved prints of the Newhaven fisherfolk are among the first images of social documentary photography. In the space of four and a half years Hill and Adamson produced several thousand prints encompassing landscapes, architectural views, tableaux vivants from Scottish literature and an impressive suite of portraits featuring key members of Edinburgh society. Anne M. Lyden, International Photography Curator at the National Galleries of Scotland, discusses the dynamic dispute that brought these two men together and reveals their perfect chemistry as the first professional partnership in Scottish photography. Illustrated with around 100 masterpieces from the Galleries' unique, vast collection of the duo's groundbreaking work.

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